

Application No. 09/980,058
Amendment Dated December 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the present abstract with the abstract listed below:

~~Peptides, which may be fragments of the IE-1 or pp65 proteins, selected from the following group of sequences:~~

~~R_N Gln Thr Met Leu Arg Lys Glu Val Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Leu Gly R_C~~
~~R_N Cys Asn Glu Asn Pro Glu Lys Asp Val Leu Ala Glu Leu Val Lys R_C~~
~~R_N Leu Val Lys Gln Ile Lys Val Arg Val Asp Met Val Arg His Arg R_C~~
~~R_N Ala Ala Asn Lys Leu Gly Gly Ala Leu Gln Ala Lys Ala Arg Ala R_C~~
~~R_N Ala Arg Ala Lys Lys Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met R_C~~
~~R_N Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met R_C~~
~~R_N Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met Cys Tyr Arg Asn Ile Glu R_C~~
~~R_N Val Thr Ser Asp Ala Cys Met Met Thr Met Tyr Gly Gly Ile Ser R_C~~
~~R_N Glu Phe Cys Arg Val Leu Cys Cys Tyr Val Leu Glu Glu Thr Ser R_C~~
~~R_N Met Ser Ile Tyr Val Tyr Ala Leu Pro Leu Lys Met Leu Asn Ile R_C~~
~~R_N Val Tyr Ala Leu Pro Leu Lys Met Leu Asn Ile Pro Ser Ile Asn R_C~~
~~R_N Ala Leu Pro Leu Lys Met Leu Asn Ile R_C~~
~~R_N His Ile Met Leu Asp Val Ala Phe Thr Ser His Glu His Phe Gly R_C~~
~~R_N Asp Val Ala Phe Thr Ser His Glu His Phe Gly Leu Leu Cys Pro R_C~~
~~R_N Val Ala Phe Thr Ser His Glu His Phe R_C~~
~~R_N Ala Phe Thr Ser His Glu His Phe Gly R_C~~
~~R_N Ala Asn Asp Ile Tyr Arg Ile Phe Ala Glu Leu Glu Gly Val Trp R_C~~
~~R_N Val Cys Ser Met Glu Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Lys Met Gln Val Ile R_C~~
~~R_N Glu Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Lys Met Gln Val Ile Gly Asp Gln Tyr R_C~~
~~R_N Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Lys Met Gln Val R_C~~
~~R_N Thr Arg Ala Thr Lys Met Gln Val Ile R_C~~
~~R_N Gln Pro Phe Met Arg Pro His Glu Arg Asn Gly Phe Thr Val Leu R_C~~
~~R_N Pro Leu Lys Met Leu Asn Ile Pro Ser Ile Asn Val His His Tyr R_C~~
~~R_N Leu Asn Ile Pro Ser Ile Asn Val His His Tyr Pro Ser Ala Ala R_C~~
~~R_N Glu Asp Val Pro Ser Glu Lys Leu Phe Met His Val Thr Leu Gly R_C~~

~~R_N Cys Arg Val Leu Cys Cys Tyr Val Leu R_C~~
~~R_N Arg Val Leu Cys Cys Tyr Val Leu Glu R_C~~
~~R_N Val Leu Cys Cys Tyr Val Leu Glu Glu R_C~~
~~R_N Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met R_C~~
~~R_N Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr R_C~~
~~R_N Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met R_C~~

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~~R_N - Asp - Glu - Glu - Glu - Ala - Ile - Val - Ala - Tyr - Tyr - Leu - Ala - Thr - Ala - Gly - R_C~~

or

~~R_N - Glu - Asn - Ser - Asp - Gln - Glu - Glu - Ser - Glu - Gln - Ser - Asp - Glu - Glu - Glu - R_C~~

wherein

~~R_N represents H or an amino protective group;~~

~~R_C represents OH or a carboxy protective group.~~

~~The peptides according to the invention are used for preparing a medicament for vaccination against HCMV infections, or a diagnostic agent for identifying an immune response against HCMV.~~

The present invention relates to peptides or peptide derivatives of the 65 kD lower matrix phosphoprotein of human cytomegalovirus. The peptides disclosed are useful for determining whether subjects have been exposed to human cytomegalovirus. Methods for using these peptides or derivatives thereof to determine the peptide-induced production of interferon- γ and/or TNF- α in CD8⁺ T cells isolated from subjects are also disclosed.